



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

ABU DHABI DECLARATION



UNIDO 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE

INDUSTRY 2030 – INNOVATE. CONNECT. TRANSFORM OUR FUTURE.
3–7 NOVEMBER 2019, ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



Abu Dhabi Declaration

1. We, the Heads of State and Government, Ministers and Representatives, gathered at the eighteenth session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) held in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, as well as combating climate change and environmental degradation and its impacts, as referred to in the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), convened under the auspices of the General Assembly in September 2019, are among the greatest global challenges of our times.
2. We reaffirm our commitment to General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets were adopted, as well as our commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner.
3. We acknowledge the Secretary-General’s global call for a decade of action to accelerate the implementation of measures to achieve the SDGs.
4. We acknowledge the importance of the regional and subregional dimensions to economic integration and inter-connectivity in sustainable development, taking into consideration different national realities, policies and priorities, as well as differences in capacities and levels of development, in particular for developing countries.
5. We recall the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development whose concrete and effective implementation is key to achieve the SDGs.
6. We recall the “Lima Declaration: towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development” in 2013 which laid the foundation for the development of Goal 9 to “build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation” and affirmed industrial development as a central driver for economic growth, job creation, income generation, and social inclusion.
7. We recall our commitment to the SDGs while we reaffirm the importance of promoting human rights, good governance, the rule of law, transparency and accountability at all levels.
8. We reaffirm our commitment to the Paris Agreement.

9. Cognizant of United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/293 on the proclamation of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016–2025) (IDDA III), which mandates UNIDO, as the lead Organization, to develop, operationalize and implement the IDDA III, we urge development partners and donors to support UNIDO activities, including building partnerships with the private and public sectors, donors, and United Nations and international specialized agencies to contribute towards implementation of industrial development projects in Africa which are in line with IDDA III objectives.

10. We recognize the need for effective international cooperation for inclusive and sustainable industrial development, including South-South and triangular cooperation, through the exchange of knowledge, best practices and capacity-building and the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, to respond to the intensifying challenges of poverty and hunger eradication, as well as peace and security, climate change, pollution and environmental degradation, growing inequality and emerging trends such as the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

11. We acknowledge that the new technologies associated with the Fourth Industrial Revolution, with both transformative and disruptive potential, offer great opportunities to advance inclusive economic growth, reduce inequalities and contribute to sustainable development, resilience and human well-being, to address climate change and safeguard the environment in the framework of a circular economy as one of the means to achieve sustainable development, while also bringing with it challenges such as, inter alia, the widening of the technology gap among countries, job losses and threats to industrial safety and security.

12. We call for collective actions, multi-stakeholder partnerships and strengthened international cooperation to harness the full potential of these new technologies and mitigate associated risks, inter alia by scaling up UNIDO programmes for developing countries that support technological learning, technology transfer, and innovation, in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises, women and the youth.

13. We reaffirm our commitment to UNIDO as a specialized agency of the United Nations with the mandate to promote international industrial cooperation and inclusive and sustainable industrial development and the central coordinator of ISID in the United Nations system. We welcome UNIDO's crucial role in accelerating the achievement of Goal 9 along with all other industry-related goals of the 2030 Agenda. We invite all Member States of the United Nations to join UNIDO.

14. We recognize the importance of enhancing the efforts of UNIDO in achieving the SDGs through all its mandated functions.

15. We welcome the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) as UNIDO's innovative and unique model for accelerating inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Member States. We recognize that the PCP supports participating States in achieving the SDGs and call on UNIDO to streamline actions towards the implementation of PCPs.

16. We reaffirm the important role of UNIDO within the context of the repositioning of the United Nations development system, as laid down in General Assembly resolutions 71/243 and 72/279, especially in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development, while taking advantage of the interlinkages between the economic, social and environmental dimensions to strengthen the common response to the 2030 Agenda.

17. We welcome the Organization's commitment to development results and encourage the enhancement of the role of UNIDO in the concerted efforts of the United Nations development system to seek greater coherence within the system and achieve system-wide global, regional and country-level results.

18. We encourage UNIDO to continue supporting Member States, cognizant of the diverse and specific needs and challenges they each face, by facilitating the adoption of best policies, practices, and technologies on favourable terms as mutually agreed, and unlocking appropriate resources in developing countries, as well as addressing the specific challenges facing middle-income countries.

19. We welcome that UNIDO supports the inclusion, participation, and contribution of all stakeholders in the economic development of Member States. We recognize the role of ISID in achieving gender equality and empowerment of women. We welcome UNIDO's role as a global platform for the promotion of women economic empowerment and leadership, and call for continued efforts, strengthening of international cooperation and partnerships with public, private sector and academia in this field. We stress the importance of continued gender mainstreaming in sustainable development policies and interventions, as well as targeted actions to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. We take note of the progress made so far by the Organization in its programmatic work and in its efforts to apply these principles in its management practices, and take note of the Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2020–2023, and related resolutions of the General Conference of UNIDO.

20. We underline the importance of adequately addressing youth issues in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and encourage the involvement of young people in the development and implementation of sustainable development interventions. We also recognize the role industry plays in providing opportunities for creating decent employment for the youth.

21. In recognition of Goal 17 to “strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development”, we emphasize the importance of strengthened partnerships for inclusive and sustainable industrial development among governments, the private sector, and civil society to successfully achieve the 2030 Agenda.

22. We further emphasize the importance of mobilizing the private sector to support the achievement of Goal 9, and promotion of inclusive and sustainable industrial development, as well as the importance of UNIDO and its Member States to facilitate such partnership. In the context of the rapid technological transition in the manufacturing sector worldwide, there is a need for advancing UNIDO's role in organizing global high-level multi-stakeholder platforms, such as the Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit (GMIS), to spur thought leadership, cross-sectoral dialogues and partnerships, in full alignment with the SDGs.

23. We recognize that achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development requires the coordinated action of governments at all levels, international organizations, the private and public sectors, financial institutions, development banking, academia and civil society to facilitate productive capacities and job creation with the aim of eradicating poverty, while safeguarding the environment in the framework of a circular economy as one of the available means to achieve sustainable development. For this purpose, maximum use should be made of advancements in technological innovation; the development and adoption of improved and responsible business practices; the promotion of enhanced international industrial standards; impact investments; and effective policymaking aimed at bridging inequality gaps and enhancing conducive governance, while ensuring the sustainable use and management of natural resources, and equal opportunities for all.

24. We underline the crucial role of UNIDO in providing a platform to coordinate and catalyse initiatives led by, and in partnership with, private sector entities, while encouraging private-sector manufacturers to work together to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. We call upon UNIDO to spearhead these collaborative efforts by private-sector manufacturers through coordination, knowledge-sharing and targeted support. We encourage the establishment of a global alliance of private-sector manufacturers for ISID under the auspices of UNIDO.

25. We call upon all the Member States to ensure adequate funding for UNIDO in order to meet the full level of the Organization's core and operational activities.

26. In line with our reaffirmed commitment to United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries. We encourage all States to work for inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

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